

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

**INFORMATION REPORT  
CONFIDENTIAL**

25X1

DATE DISTR. 8 April 1948

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW) 3

25X1

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Russian Mining Expedition in Sinkiang Province.

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

DATE OF INFO [REDACTED]

LIBRARY COPY  
25X1

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT SO U.S.C. 51 AND 52, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED. HOWEVER INFORMATION CONTAINED IN BODY OF THE FORM MAY BE UTILIZED AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE RECEIVING AGENCY.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH  
USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS  
25X1

1. A Russian mining expedition is operating in northern Sinkiang Province in an area roughly designated as 47° North and 90° East. They are mining and purchasing various minerals of which those containing tungsten appear to be more in demand. In fact, highest prices are paid for those containing wolframite and other minerals containing the highest percentage of tungsten. There is no indication of any activity in this area with respect to uranium-bearing minerals.

2. This expedition originally came from the vicinity of Lake Zaisan, and seemed most interested in locating and collecting tungsten minerals. Native labor was utilized in several ways. The prospecting was conducted by three or four Russian geologists, assisted by about twelve Kazakh natives. The subsequent mining operations were surface cuttings on a small scale. No heavy machinery was apparent. Some native labor was employed directly, while other natives collected minerals on their own and sold their collection to the expedition.

3. The ore was taken by truck from this area to Bulun Tokhoi and from there taken by truck over one of the roads into East Kazakhstan, possibly the road that goes through Zaisan. There is also activity in the area of Puerhtsin. Estimates of the amount of ore taken out place it at several hundred tons per week, but this is considered high, because of transportation difficulties.

4. An airfield has been constructed in the vicinity of Shara-Sume, and Russian planes come in regularly. With the exception of guards traveling on the ore trucks, most of the Russian personnel come and go by air transportation.

25X1

Comment: This [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

According to that report, a Soviet mining expedition entered the Ashan Zone of Northern Sinkiang, in May 1946. The expedition was accompanied by Red Army personnel as guards. An airfield was

25X1

GEO-P-GERM

Russia

REFERENCE CENTER LIBRARY

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

DISTRIBUTION

NAVY

NSRB

CLASSIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

This document is hereby registered to letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.  
Next Review Date: 2008

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

reportedly established at Chenghua (Shara-Sume, 47° 13' N, 89° 38' E). The mining expedition is engaged in mining and purchasing Beryl, Spodumene, Columbyet, and a vaguely identified mineral, thought to be Bismuthinite. The mines are at Chenghua and Fuxen. The main Russian interest seemed to be in Columbyet.

This Russian activity is possible because the area is in the hands of the rebel forces, the so-called Ining Group. These rebel forces apparently cooperate with Russians operating in this area, without any permission from the Sinkiang Provincial Government.)

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL